

## A SPECIAL JACK ANDERSON REPORT

# How We Get Inside Information on World Leaders

**P**resident Nixon will know enough about Leonid Brezhnev to write a biography when the two leaders finally sit down together at the summit. Brezhnev's health? The President will have a complete medical report. Brezhnev's temperament? A detailed psychological profile will be available. Brezhnev's beliefs? The President will have transcripts of private Kremlin conversations.

### Intimate information

Nixon even has the name of Brezhnev's favorite masseuse. In the privacy of the Kremlin, Brezhnev confided to Soviet President Nikolai Podgorny that he was looking forward to a rubdown from a masseuse named Olga. American spies were listening when Podgorny answered, with a knowing chuckle: "Oh, ho! Olga!"

In the rarefied atmosphere of international power politics, such intimate information can be a powerful bargaining chip. Thick dossiers on world leaders are compiled by the Central Intelligence Agency, which gathers its information by every method, from electronic eavesdropping to routine research.

The secret profile of Leonid Brezhnev, according to those who have seen it, portrays him as an amiable, robust, hard-drinking outdoorsman. He likes to gossip about his colleagues in the Kremlin, and he engages in the constant bickering and backbiting that goes on behind those Byzantine walls. His private conversations are heavily laced

with locker-room language. He likes to relax at a place Soviet leaders call the "Clinic" near the Kremlin. This is the Soviet equivalent of a private health club.

The profile also contains incidents and insights from CIA intelligence reports. During the 1968 Czechoslovakian crisis, for example, the man Brezhnev ousted as Premier, Nikita Khrushchev, suddenly showed up at the Kremlin and demanded to see his successor. Khrushchev loudly warned that the Czech invasion could turn into a disaster unless Soviet troops were pulled out at once. Brezhnev gruffly refused to see Khrushchev and ignored his advice.

### A profile of Castro

The profile on Fidel Castro contains a CIA report that the Kremlin has asked the Cuban dictator "to try to regain control over Latin American revolutionary movements" and has promised to "pay all the costs involved."

The CIA also reported Castro's private opinion of the Marxist regime in Chile and its leader, President Salvador Allende. Castro correctly predicted a year in advance "a breakdown in public order." This, he said, could come about at any time because the opposition, especially the middle class, had lost its fear of government. Castro opined that a government must have fear if it is to control the country.

"Another factor listed by Castro," continued the secret CIA report, "was the possible deterioration of Allende's health. Castro said he is worried about Allende because the latter is physically

'spent.' Castro also observed that [Chilean] leaders live too well and are not under sufficient tension to take the offensive."

The CIA not only keeps Communist leaders under scrutiny; it also checks on friendly leaders. The financial difficulties of Costa Rica's respected President Jose Figueres, for example, were quietly relayed to Washington. The CIA quoted a family member as complaining that "all the members of the President's family are deeply concerned with family financial matters."

### The French confrontation

The CIA also gleefully reported an awkward confrontation between France's President Georges Pompidou and West Germany's Chancellor Willy Brandt a few months ago. "A heated exchange took place after the Brandt-Pompidou dinner," said the CIA. A secret account of the encounter claimed Johann Baptist Schoellhorn, a German economics official, "told Pompidou that France was profiting from and encouraging the inflation afflicting other European countries . . . According to members of Brandt's party, Brandt stood by and visibly enjoyed Pompidou's discomfiture. Schoellhorn supported his accusations with details which Pompidou was unable to refute."

The world's two most celebrated women leaders, Israel's Golda Meir and India's Indira Gandhi, are reported by the CIA to have a long-distance feud brewing. According to the CIA account, Mrs. Meir regards Mrs. Gandhi as "neutral . . . on the side of Egypt," while Mrs. Gandhi sees Israel as a "warmonger."

The dossiers on Arab leaders are loaded with CIA tidbits. Egypt's President Anwar Sadat, "when threatening Israel with an all-out war, was bluffing," reported the CIA. Jordan's King Hussein threatened "to go on a ghazou" unless he received more American aid. A ghazou, it was explained, "is a Bedouin raid against neighbors for the purpose of looting." Syria's President Hafez-al-Assad was portrayed by the CIA as an outspoken militant who doesn't "expect too much from Egyptians." Assad uses the Arabic word "lamma" when he speaks of war with Israel. "Lamma" means "when" not "if," explained a CIA report.

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Spying on foreign operation, involving CIA agents in the field and researchers at headquarters. Reports from diplomats and military attachés also go into the dossiers. If Washington suddenly wants more information about a certain dignitary, say in advance of a summit meeting, he becomes "targeted." Then the full resources of the clandestine agency are trained upon laying his life bare.

The first step in the daily spying process is known as the "library search." Researchers routinely clip newspaper and magazine articles about foreign notables and send them into the CIA's "Biographic Registry" computer.

As part of the "library search," field agents are asked to fill out forms on foreign leaders, which resemble job applications. To the extent possible, relatives, friends and acquaintances are casually contacted. Information is gathered helter-skelter, with rumor and fact carefully noted. It is left to the experts in Washington to assemble the jigsaw pieces and make the final distinctions.

### Nothing taken for granted

Even the most rudimentary facts, however, are not taken for granted. "In many foreign societies, the leaders mask their backgrounds as much as possible," a CIA man told us. "It's not like in the United States where you have everything from FBI files to job applications to track down a personal history."

An astonishing amount of information can be picked up quite legitimately by America's observers overseas. For example, a military attaché in Moscow became great friends with the Soviet Defense Minister during the Khrushchev years. While the stuffy Soviet bigwigs would shuffle about at official receptions, the attaché and minister would toss down vodka and swap stories about their superiors.

Of course, electronic eavesdropping is often used. In Belgium a CIA operative learned that the Chinese Communist embassy was planning to move. He quickly located the new site and rented the house next door. Bugs were placed in the new embassy before the Chinese moved in. The CIA picked up an earful before the bugs were eventually discovered.

While the field operatives are poking into every dark corner of the subject's life, academics back at the CIA compile anthropological and sociological data on the area in which the subject grew up. This is done in the CIA's "Geographic Office." The structure of the society, its mores and customs are

the portrait of the person.

The "Geographic Office" report on Mao Tse-tung, for instance, noted that he traveled as a beggar through the country in his youth, seeing firsthand the poverty and corruption. This profoundly affected the young Mao and helped ignite the revolutionary fire that caused him to help found the Chinese Communist Party in the early 1920's. Today, intelligence reports confirm that Mao is still the purest of revolutionaries.

### Medical diagnosis

The CIA also directs its agents to dredge up all possible medical information for the medical researchers to diagnose. Once, agents tapped into washroom pipes in one of Monte Carlo's most glamorous casinos to get a urine sample from the oil-rich King of Saudi Arabia, who was rumored to be ailing. Inside the washroom, crouched behind a commode door, an agent waited with an electronic signaling device. The King, a heavy drinker and addicted gambler, finally entered in a swirl of white robe. The agent alerted his colleague in the plumbing closet, and the nozzle was turned on the pipe tapped into the washroom plumbing.

But the greatest coup in the annals of the CIA's medical espionage occurred during Nikita Khrushchev's state visit to the United States in 1959. CIA men managed to isolate and bore triumphantly to the labs the Soviet leader's solid waste for medical analysis.

Sophisticated photographic techniques are also used to observe leaders at long distance. Called "targets of opportunity" in CIA jargon, the photos are compared with old ones for signs of stress, aging and disease. A blotchy skin,

for example, can indicate a liver problem.

Through long-range observation, the CIA learned of the late Egyptian President Nasser's heart condition and of the late Indonesian President Sukarno's visits to a Viennese specialist. (Surveillance of Sukarno, incidentally, revealed he liked his hosts to have a woman for him on state visits.)

### Photographic evidence

Long-range photography settled a rumor, back before the Chinese-American detente, whether Mao Tse-tung was sick and using a double for public appearances. A photograph was taken of Mao in public. By measuring the length of the earlobe and by determining that his facial wart was in exactly the right place, the agency certified him as genuine. Then by closely examining the picture, CIA analysts learned that the aging leader was not critically ill as had been rumored.

For all the sophisticated methods the CIA uses to gather intelligence on world leaders, however, nothing is quite as revealing as a face-to-face meeting. More can be learned from one tough negotiating session than from a 10,000-page report prepared by the CIA. For it's not the juicy tidbits so much as the basic attitudes that matter in the world of power politics.